Purchase of aircrafts by AI

4967. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airbus will deliver three A 310s, 200-seater planes to Air India in the month of April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Air India has already five A 310s in its fleet;

(c) if so, what will be the total cost per aircraft; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful to Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) At present Air India has in all thirteen A310-300 aircraft. Of these 8 are aircraft owned by Air India and the remaining 5 are taken on dry lease for 3 years lease term. As a part of Air India's Fleet Rationalisation Plan, additional three A310-300 aircraft are proposed to be dry leased which are likely to be delivered during the year 2002. As the bids received are under evaluation, no cost can be furnished at present. With this induction, Air India will be able to phase out its old aircraft and improve its product on various sectors.

Air service from Guwahati to Bangkok

4968. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when Guwahati-Bangkok flight by Air India is likely to start;

(b) what will be the frequency of this service;

(c) the other details in this regard; and

(d) whether Government expect a boost to international tourism by starting this service?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Effective from 04 April 2002, Air India has started weekly Guwahati-Bangkok flight. This is likely to give boost to tourism between North East region of the country and South East Asia.

Unemployed Pilots

4969. SHRI B .J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trained pilots in the country who are presently unemployed;

(b) the number of recognized flying institutes/clubs and the seats available for training fresh recruits as pilots;

(c) the number of pilots presently engaged in both public and private sector airlines in the country; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to utilize the services of the trained pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Information relating to the number of trained pilots and their employment status is not maintained by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (Dte. GCA).

(b) There are 44 flying clubs/institutes/schools in the country. The number of seats available for trainee pilots in these institutions is not fixed except in the case of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, (an Autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation) where the number of trainees who could join each year is fixed at 40.

(c) A statement indicating the number of pilots employed in public sector airlines and private scheduled airlines is annexed. (See below) Details regarding pilots employed by non-scheduled/ private operators is not maintained by Dte. GCA.

(d) With the opening up of aviation activities in the country, more trained pilots are getting employed in Public Sector airlines and private airlines.

Statement

The number of pilots employed in public sector airlines and private scheduled airlines

Organisation	Fixed wing aircraft pilots	Helicopters pilots
Air India Ltd.	417	Nil
Indian Airlines Ltd.	438	Nil
Alliance Air	89	Nil
Jet Airways	400+20*	Nil
Sahara Airlines	100	10
Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.	Nil	77

*Under training